

Executive Officer's Statement

March 15, 2007

A top priority during the next two months is outreach and making sure people know about the Victim Compensation Program. We will participate in a number of events at the local, state and national level.

April Is National Crime Victims' Rights Week

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 22-28, is an opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of victims' services providers, law enforcement and others serving victims and to promote awareness of issues that are important to crime victims. In keeping with tradition, VCGCB will be distributing commemorative ribbons to stakeholders featuring this year's theme: "Victims' Rights: Every Victim. Every Time." Among the other activities and projects planned are participation in the April 23 march to the Capitol and related events being held on the west steps; Web site content; a media tool kit for our county partners; a notice in the Department of Personnel Administration Employee Assistance Program Newsletter; and a request for a Governor's proclamation.

Thanks to State Controller for Victims' Rights Week Message on Payroll Warrants

I'd like to thank Board Member John Chiang, State Controller, and his Personnel/Payroll Services Division staff for working with our Public Affairs staff on placing a National Crime Victims' Rights Week message on state employee payroll warrants issued in April. The message will let thousands of state employees know that this week is dedicated to crime victims and providers. Also included in the message will be the Board's Web site address and toll-free customer service number.

Bus Shelter Pilot Project Reaches Out to Crime Victims

I'm pleased to announce the scheduled launch of the VCGCB bus shelter outreach pilot project. Starting on Monday, March 19, our combination English/Spanish language poster will appear in 60 bus shelters in several Los Angeles County high-crime areas for eight weeks. The Los Angeles County District Attorney Victim Witness Assistance Program will track the expected increase in the number of clients as a result of the campaign. The project reflects the priority VCGCB is placing on expanding outreach to Californians who may be in need of victim assistance but may not be aware that these services are available.

Symposium Marks Anniversary, Helps Set Agenda for Victims' Rights Community

We are honored to be a co-sponsor and presenter at the upcoming victims' rights symposium presented by the Capital Center for Government Law and Policy at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law on March 20-21. Participants in the "Symposium on Crime Victims' Rights – The Third Wave" will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the California Victims' Bill of Rights and look ahead to future achievements on behalf of crime victims. The symposium will highlight many aspects of the "Third Wave" in victims' rights – enforcement of those rights. Co-hosts include: the Office of the Governor, Crime Victim Advocate; the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Office of Victim and Survivor Services; and the California District Attorneys Association.

(Continued on Page 2.)

CaRES County Pilots Prepare to “Go Live”

VCGCB is rolling out CaRES to three pilot Joint Power partner counties in preparation for taking the system statewide. In late March, Sacramento and San Joaquin counties are scheduled to “go live” with the new automated claims processing system, paving the way for the third county pilot, San Bernardino, to undertake the first large-county rollout. Technical and program staff have been meeting with county JP staff to assess technology needs and coordinate the pilot projects. Training for Sacramento and San Joaquin JP staff is scheduled to start on Monday, March 19, here at VCGCB headquarters. Feedback from the pilot projects will ensure the system meets the needs of local county partners.

VOCA Update

Victim Witness Coordinating Council members are undertaking a letter-writing campaign to their various Congressional representatives making them aware of concerns regarding budget recommendations for VOCA funding.

VCGCB Updates

- **VCGCB Welcomes Pat Dorais as its New Deputy Executive Officer for the Division of Fiscal Services.** I am pleased to announce the appointment of Pat Dorais as the Deputy Executive Officer for the Fiscal Services Division. He is an attorney and brings to the Board a breadth of experience in government, with nearly 11 years at the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). His experience at DCA included serving as deputy chief at the Bureau of Private Post Secondary Education, deputy chief at the Bureau of Automotive Repair, and acting chief at the Bureau of Automotive Repair.
- **Budget Hearings Under Way.** The first round of legislative hearings to approve the Governor’s budget has taken place. On March 1, VCGCB staff appeared before Senate Subcommittee 4. March 14, Assembly Subcommittee 4 heard the VCGCB Budget.

Events

- **Carole Sund/Carrington Memorial Reward Foundation’s Vigil of Hope, March 10, Modesto.** VCGCB program staff attended this ninth-annual march and vigil, which traditionally focuses on family members of missing persons and homicide victims.
- **Victim Compensation Program Advisory Committee Meeting, March 14, Sacramento.** Included in the advisory committee agenda were: a Victim Compensation Program update; discussion of National Crime Victim Rights Week activities; a briefing from the Office of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement and Victim Services Division; and an update on the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence as it marks its one-year anniversary.
- **California Summit for Safe Communities, March 19, Sacramento.** I will attend this summit of state and local stakeholders to discuss issues surrounding the release and placement of high-risk sex offenders.